



**Northumbria  
University**  
NEWCASTLE

**The SDG Accord**

*The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals*

### Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

### Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

## **SDG Curriculum Development Project**

Newcastle Business School has long had an association with the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Initiative (UN PRME) and it was this relationship which drove our SDG Curriculum Development Project.

This Project involved mapping our current undergraduate degree programmes against the SDGs to establish a baseline as to where we were covering each SDG, or not, across our 20 existing business degrees. Following this exercise, the decision was made to redevelop our entire undergraduate business suite and construct a new curriculum within which the SDGs could be more formally embedded.

We developed a new programme specification mapping process which enabled us to design programmes around the SDGs from the outset. We determined that every programme should include learning about every SDG, not in a standalone module but by embedding this learning throughout the programme. This approach ensures a broader and more in-depth coverage of each SDG and develops a more coherent narrative. We supported this significant change with workshops for our academics to explain the changes, help them to identify opportunities for embedding the SDGs in their teaching and signposting them to further resources.

From September 2021 we launch our 11 new undergraduate business programmes, built around the SDGs and look forward to welcoming students and to continuing to promote and deliver Responsible Management

### **BENEFITS**

1. All Business School students gain a holistic understanding of the SDGs
2. Staff understand the importance of integrating SDGs into our curriculum and research activities
3. Our community stakeholders, local communities and employer's will benefit from our graduates having a greater understanding of how to tackle the issues that the SDGs encapsulate.

### **BARRIERS**

1. Staff knowledge: Ran workshops and provided access to information on the SDGs to support colleagues in understanding where the SDGs map with their curriculum content.
2. Space in the curriculum: Aligned existing non-SDG related topics with case studies that are focussed on the SDGs – i.e., Human Resource Management with SDGs 5, 8 and 10.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

There is a demand from students to incorporate SDG related issues into their degree programmes, and in many cases demand from staff too whose research is increasingly orientated to the SDGs. Although reviewing all programmes may seem daunting, the topics and theories that are a required part of Business and Management degree programmes are already largely compatible with the SDGs. In many cases the changes needed are not vast – it is simply about making the implicit explicit, and re-orientating case studies and class-based activities towards SGD related examples.